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Cottages with a seaside setting and five-star service at hand



SEASIDE SPECIAL: Cottages at Raithwaite Hall.

THERE'S always a rush of interest when property comes up for sale in the seaside village of Sandsend.

A hop and a skip along the coast from Whitby, this pretty little enclave has become one of the most desirable places to own a holiday home.

Now, house hunters are to enjoy an embarrassment of riches thanks to Skelwith Group's decision to put seven cottages on its Raithwaite Hall site up for sale.

The homes, a mix of conversion and new-build, cost £200,000 for a one bedroom and £350,000 for a three bedroom. They come with 999-year leases and a host of alluring extras, for which owners

pay a service charge of £1,500 a year

Owners and their guests are allowed access to all the facilities at the luxury Raithwaite Hall hotel, which is set to open in October this year. They will also have use of the extensive grounds, which stretch to 88 acres.

Toby Cockroft, of DHP Croft, which is marketing the properties, says: "Cottage owners will be able to use the concierge service, laundry service, gym, spa and restaurant. They will also be able to call up and order room service so they can get a steak and a bottle of wine sent down to

their cottage if they wish. If they want to let their home to holiday makers, Skelwith Group will manage the holiday lettings."

Three of the cottages are ready to move into and four should be finished by the end of August.

The development is a new chapter in the history of the stately home, which was regarded as a monument to the success of the Headlam family, of Whitby. William Headlam acquired Raithwaite Hall in 1939, formerly the home of the Pyman shipping magnates. He turned it into the company HQ after his offices in Whitby were bombed and it remained his shipping company

HQ until the business was formally wound up in 1994.

Mr Headlam died at the hall in 1991, aged 81, four years after his company's last vessel, the 15,000 ton *Egton*, was sold to Finland for scrap.

He left the entire estate and the bulk of his £7m fortune to his Swiss nurse Trudi Tanner, making her one of the richest women in Britain overnight.

Miss Tanner, who was then 56, had cared for Mr Headlam for 20 years since his second marriage ended.

She looked after the estate until it was sold to Skelwith Group two years ago. They began

work on the £30m luxury hotel development in March last year.

They also have plans to create The Keep, a new build providing accommodation for groups, including shooting parties.

They are in talks with Scarborough Council to create more cottages and nature trails in the future.

Ben Pilgrim, of Skelwith Group says: "It's a five-star site and we want it to be a premier destination."

■ For more details about the Raithwaite Hall cottages contact DHP Croft tel: 01904 238222, www.dhpcroft.co.uk or www.raithwaitehall.com